

SPECIFICATION AMENDMENTS:

Please amend the paragraph on page 1, line 24, through page 2, line 16, as follows:

Conventional methods for decreasing the friction coefficient of paper include internal application of an alkyl ketene dimer (AKD) or talc or external application of a lubricant for coating pigments. However, these methods are not preferable for preparing high quality papers. If AKD is internally applied, AKD migrates within the roll of paper so that the friction coefficient of outer layers of the roll decreases significantly to cause layer-to-layer slippage during printing. If talc is internally applied, the proportion of fillers having a high specific scattering coefficient such as white carbon and calcium carbonate decreases relatively and therefore, the opacity of paper decreases. Lubricants for coating pigments such as polyethylene wax lubricants (see ~~Patent Reference 1~~ JP-A H03-137295) and styrene lubricants (see ~~Patent Reference 2~~ JP-A S58-8200) show low dispersion stability in coatings of pH 7.0 or less, and form aggregates called scum under shear during coating, which results in serious operational problems. This problem occurs in newsprint papers, which are typically coated with a coating of pH 7.0 or less containing starch and a surface sizing agent without pigments.

Please amend the paragraph on page 4, lines 16-25, as follows:

Thus, a method for applying AKD on newsprint papers was proposed (see ~~Patent Reference 3~~ JP-A H07-119078), but a large amount of AKD must be applied to afford an effective sizing quality because typical newsprint papers made from acidic stocks at pH 4.5-5.5 have a surface pH of 4.5-5.5, which is below the alkalinity required for AKD to produce an appropriate sizing effect, and the sizing effect develops slowly. To control the friction coefficient in an appropriate range, an anti-slip agent had to be applied at the same time.